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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Portugal

DATE DISTR. 24 September 1948

SUBJECT An Estimate of the Size of the
Portuguese Communist Party

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1. It is estimated that the total membership of the Portuguese Communist Party has until recently fluctuated around the 10,000 mark. The figure 10,000 is based on the fact that 2500 copies of AVANTE are published each issue and it is assumed that each copy is read by the equivalent of a cell, that is, four or five persons.
2. In the last two years there has been a sharp decline in both membership and revenue. Collections for Socorro Vermelho (Red Aid) have fallen off more than 30 percent. Many copies of AVANTE are returned to the printer, especially from the Algarve and the Coimbra region. In both of these sections the police have been very active against the communists.
3. Currently the PCP controls roughly some 800 cells which indicates a rough estimate of some 4000 members engaged in cell activities. This estimate does not include the elaborate administrative organization for the "funcionarios" with special assignments, hence the total membership is a somewhat higher figure.

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